

# ADVISORY COUNCIL ON TIDAL FINFISHERIES



## MINUTES OF October 17, 2018



DNREC Auditorium, 89 Kings Hwy SW, Dover, DE 19901  
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### ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dewayne Fox, Ph.D., Chair  
Bernie Pankowski  
Brian Hoffecker (*Absent*)  
James "Jay" Little  
Marvin Kahl, Jr. (*Absent*)  
P. "Wes" Townsend (*Absent*)  
Joseph Smith

### DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

John Clark  
Chief Drew Aydelotte  
David Saveikis, Director

### PUBLIC

6 Visitors

#### **Agenda Item 1. Welcome**

**Chairman Dewayne Fox** called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and welcomed everyone.

#### **Agenda Item 2. Approval of July 24, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

A motion to accept the July meeting minutes was approved without objection.

#### **Agenda Item 3. Regulatory Update – John Clark,**

**Fisheries Administrator**, stated that the register notice for reallocation of the commercial Striped Bass quota between the gill net and hook and line fisheries was published on October 1, with a public hearing scheduled for October 31, 2018. The final Summer Flounder regulation setting the minimum size limit at 16.5 inches was published on October 1 with an effective date of October 11, which replaced the corresponding emergency regulation previously in effect; the Black Sea Bass regulation eliminating the fall closure was published on September 1 with an effective date of September 11; and the Tautog regulation increasing the size limit to 16", lengthening the season, and requiring commercial tagging is expected to be published on November 1. The proposed Cobia regulation, which requires choosing to either adopt the default Cobia Fishery Management Plan (FMP) *de minimis* measure or measures consistent with our nearest non *de minimis* neighbor (VA), is under review.

#### **Agenda Item 4. Mid Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (MAFMC) – John Clark, Fisheries**

**Administrator**, stated that the proposed 2019 Recreational Harvest Limit (RHL) for Summer Flounder will be 16.5% greater than the 2018 RHL, but the 2019 Black Sea Bass RHL will be 11% lower than the 2018 RHL. However, the Black Sea Bass, Bluefish and Summer Flounder assessments are due in early 2019 and the results of these assessments may change the 2019 RHL for each species. MAFMC discussed simplifying quota transfers between the recreational and commercial Bluefish fisheries. Spiny Dogfish specifications for 2019-2021 have been set, with the federal commercial trip limit for Spiny Dogfish to remain at 6,000 pounds in 2019.

#### **Agenda Item 5. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Summer 2018 Meeting Summary and 2018 Annual Meeting Preview – John Clark, Fisheries**

**Administrator**, stated that the ASMFC is starting to work on coordinating aquaculture efforts in its member states. Virginia has not established the 51,000 mt Chesapeake Bay cap for

Atlantic Menhaden and is out of compliance with the Atlantic Menhaden FMP, but ASMFC put off a compliance finding until 2019. Addendum V to the American Eel FMP was approved, with the key provision being an increase in the landings trigger for management action to 10% or more over the coast-wide landings cap for two consecutive years. A new recreational draft addendum for public comment on Scup, Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass proposes changes to the regulatory process for allocating the coast-wide recreational harvest limit. ASMFC will set the 2019 Delaware Bay specifications for Horseshoe Crab at the Annual Meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 6. Anchor netting in the Delaware River – DDFW**

Council tabled this discussion until the January meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 7. The 2018 Annual Report to the Legislature: Contents and Submission – Council and DDFW**

The Council will read the report and send any edits to Chairman Fox, who will then forward the report to the Fisheries Section for distribution to all Legislators as required by state law.

#### **Agenda Item 8. Director's Update – David Saveikis,**

**Fish and Wildlife Division Director**, stated that DNREC has started working on its FY20 budget and legislative agenda. The Little Creek boat ramp is scheduled for completion in December 2018. The Augustine boat ramp is on a biannual dredging schedule, scheduled for dredging this coming winter. The Port Mahon fishing pier is closed briefly for deck replacement. A construction contract for Philips Landing has been awarded and the ramp will be closed from early November 2018 until the spring of 2019. The Millsboro Pond boat ramp will begin construction in early 2019.

#### **Suggested Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

1. Anchor netting in the Delaware River.
2. Sport Fishing Tournament.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM  
Respectfully Submitted by

*Rebecca Hoover*

Rebecca Hoover  
Recording Secretary

DRAFT